



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND • INCORPORATED 1786

## TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF ELLINGTON August 16, 2010

#### CORRECTED MINUTES

*First Selectman, Maurice Blanchette announced at 7:10 p.m. that the meeting would be moved next door to Center School as attendance was already exceeding capacity with residents still arriving. (Notices were posted at the Town Hall as to the new location of the meeting.) After a brief delay for setting up Mr. Blanchette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and asked for nominations for moderator.*

***MOVED Ronald Stomberg, SECONDED A. Leo Miller to NOMINATE Mark Leighton AS MODERATOR.***

VOTE: All in favor – Motion carried.

The moderator read the **(attached)** Warning Notice which was published and posted in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 7-3

The following items were considered:

Item 1. To consider the acceptance and expenditure of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act [ARRA] 2009 Justice Assistance Grant [JAG] in the amount of \$9,100.

**MOVED Maurice Blanchette SECONDED Lori Spielman TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF A \$9,100 ARRA JAG GRANT, AS SPECIFIED IN ITEM 1.**

Discussion: Maurice Blanchette answered the question as to what this money is designated for. The Police Department has spent this grant on needed equipment as part of a stimulus package.

VOTE: Hearing no further questions, the Moderator called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. To consider the acceptance and expenditure of an ARRA 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for the Old Crystal Lake School energy efficiency upgrade in the amount of \$66,772.

**MOVED Maurice Blanchette SECONDED Lori Spielman TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF A \$66,772 ARRA ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT, AS SPECIFIED IN ITEM 2.**

Discussion: Mr. Blanchette explained that this is the money that is needed to complete the project at the Old Crystal Lake School.

VOTE: Hearing no further questions, the Moderator called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. To consider the acceptance and expenditure of a State of CT Small Town Economic Assistance [STEAP] grant for the design and construction of a fire training area in the amount of \$200,000.

**MOVED A. Leo Miller SECONDED Maurice Blanchette TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF A \$200,000 STEAP GRANT, AS SPECIFIED IN ITEM 3.**

Discussion: Chief **Michael Varney** gave a detailed explanation of the proposed fire training facility which will include parking, the burn trailer, pumper training and a drill tower. The proper utilities will also be included.

**Christine Brunelle**, 41 Ridgeview Dr. asked who is eligible to vote. All registered voters and property owners with assessments of \$1,000. or more are allowed to vote. Ms. Brunelle would also like to know who else could apply for grants and who makes the decision what grant will be applied for. Mr. Blanchette explained that all town departments are made aware of available grants that they may apply for.

**Michael Stupinski**, 6 Raspberry Lane was asked to explain the application process for the grant as he was First Selectman at the time the grant was applied for.

**Matthew Allen**, 65 Maple Street questioned the integrity of the property and since it was designated as open space, does it qualify for a fire station and/or training facility. It was explained that deed states one section is designated for this purpose. Mr. Allen would also like to see the dollar amount for the entire project.

**Michael Judge**, 3 Hillside Drive does not believe that this training area is needed nor is a fire station in the southwest part of town. We should use training facilities in neighboring towns or use the State training facility.

**Alessandra Lundberg**, 2 Allen Ridge Dr. asked if the project will still go through if the grant is not accepted. The answer is no. The State will take the grant money back.

**Tabetha Avtges**, 5 Ryan Drive, asked if this meeting is the legal way to approve the acceptance of the grant. Mr. Blanchette explained that this is appropriate according to our town charter.

**Jonathan Allen**, 33 Dogwood Lane would like to see more awareness by the residents of town. More residents should attend monthly meetings to become more familiar with the proceedings of town government.

**Jim Tonan**, 155 Windermere Ave., would like to hear what the vision of the fire chief as to the entire project, including a future station.

**Amanda Foster**, 7 Ryan Drive, believes we should accept the money from the State and move forward. We should want the best training for our firefighters as possible since they are the ones trying to save our homes and our lives.

**MOVED Peter Hany**, **SECONDED Terry Shook**, to move the question. The moderator explained that this is a non-debatable motion. We will vote on this motion and if it passes, there will be no further discussion. Additional debate will take place if this motion fails.

The Moderator called for a vote. A standing count was taken. Then a hand count was taken. With both counts taken, the motion to move the question was passed.

The Moderator then called for a vote on Item #3. A resident asked for a paper ballot count on item #3.

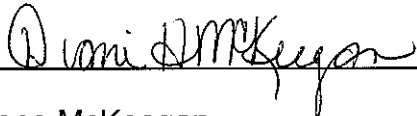
All residents were asked to provide identification before being issued a paper ballot.

Qualified voters were checked from the Grand List of property owners or the list of registered voters.

**VOTE: 96 votes in favor of item #3, 81 votes against item #3.** Item #3 passes by simple majority. *(In addition, 11 votes were cast by residents who could not produce any photo identification. Their names were recorded, along with their address on the back of the ballot for later confirmation and inclusion in the count if needed. Even if all 11 ballots were confirmed as countable, it would not change the result, and item #3 still passes by simple majority.)*

**MOVED Jonathan Allen SECONDED Peter Hany** to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

These minutes are being corrected to make note of the change of location at the beginning of the meeting, and to recognize the 11 votes cast by residents who could not produce identification that evening which would not affect the outcome of the vote.

Submitted by 

Diane McKeegan

Town Clerk

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Warning Notice